

Ladder – The capability of fuels to act as a ladder, carrying fire from ground fuels up into the crowns of standing timber was chosen as a factor because the most dangerous fire is a crown fire. The closer ladder fuels are to ground fuels and the more continuous they are into the crowns, the higher the risk to nearby property.

Building Exposure – Nearness of wildland fuels to a building is an important factor. The closer these fuels are to the building, the more likely that fire burning in the fuels can spread to the building. Fires can spread to the building either by direct exposure to flames, by continued exposure to the radiant heat, or by exposure to a wave of sparks given off by the fire. The closer the burning vegetation is to a building, the higher the probability that the building will catch fire.

For each of these six factors, three ranges of conditions were established to show low, moderate, or high risk when fire occurs within one of these ranges. The ranges for each factor are shown in figure 1

Figure 1			
Field Risk Assessment Form			
Factor	Low	Moderate	High
Aspect	N, NE	NW, E, SE	Flat, W, SW, S
Slope	< 20%	20% - 40%	> 40%
Wind Exposure	Full Shelter	Partial Shelter	Exposed
Fuel Model	8, 9	1, 5, 11	2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 13
Ladder Fuels	> 30'	10' – 30'	< 10'
Building Exposure	> 50'	25' – 50'	< 25'
Totals	L_____	M_____	H_____

On the field form, each existing condition at each viewed property was circled for each factor. This documented the field assessment for that home. The total numbers of low, moderate, and high risk factors were then noted at the bottom of the form. Only homes that could be seen from public roads were evaluated.

Roads around the county were randomly selected for inclusion in the sample. For example, Upper Pack River Road, Rapid Lightning Creek Road, East Spring Creek